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2-25-1971

Newsletter - 1971-02-25

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FOR RELEASE: 25 February 1971

92-268

FROM: Kika de la Garza

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- A new Federal law, which I am proud to say I had something to do with passing, intended to stop the mailing of pornographic material to persons who do not wish to receive it, is now in effect.

The new law provides stiff penalties for mailers of unsolicited pornographic advertising matter who persist in sending "sexually oriented advertisements", as that term is defined in the law, to persons who have taken steps to declare that they do not want to receive them. In addition, all envelopes containing such material must say plainly on the front, "Sexually Oriented Ad".

If an individual does not wish to receive such advertisements, he merely goes to his local post office and asks for and fills out PS Form 2201. Those unable to go in person may write their postmasters, requesting that the form be mailed. Any mailer who sends the unwanted pornography to a person whose name has been on this list for more than 30 days will be subject to civil sanctions and, if his violation is willful, to criminal penalties of up to five years' imprisonment, a fine of \$5,000.00 or both.

This law will give protection to the many people, including young people, whose names have been placed on pornographers' mailing lists without their consent.

* * *

REVENUE SHARING -- President Nixon's plan for General and Special Revenue Sharing is put forward as a means of helping state and local governments meet the financial crisis which many of them now face. It is designed to provide these governments with an annual total of \$16 billion in more flexible forms than at present. Of this total about \$6 billion would be new money above and beyond what the states and localities are now receiving.

The General Revenue Sharing fund of \$5 billion for the first year would be distributed among the 50 states and the District of Columbia on the basis of population and "revenue effort" -- that is, how well a state has attempted to meet its people's needs through its own revenue-raising powers. All general purpose local governments would share in these funds. On the average, they would get about one-half of the total.

Special Revenue Sharing would replace narrow grant programs with new, less restricted grants. In place of the present 130 separate grant programs, \$11 billion of shared revenues would be grouped under six broad headings: urban community development, rural community development, elementary and secondary education, manpower training, law enforcement, and transportation. State and local governments would be permitted to spend the funds as they see fit provided they stay within these assigned purposes. According

to the Administration's presentation of the program, no present program deemed desirable at the local level would have to be terminated, nor would any state or community receive less under revenue sharing than under the existing grant programs. The one big problem is that the Federal Government does not have the money and no prospect of getting it. So how can one share what one does not have?

* * *

HANDICAPPED GI'S -- Vietnam veterans with physical and mental handicaps are not flocking back to school the way their fathers did after World War II and the Korean War.

Harold Russell, chairman of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, said recently in Washington that the percentage of returning handicapped servicemen is higher than in either of the previous wars because of the "nature of the war and the medical aid available". But despite more and better facilities ready to train them for jobs, most of the young ex-servicemen are not participating. The Veterans Administration has now set up a special study group designed to reach and encourage the returning veterans to use health and rehabilitation centers. I hope handicapped ex-servicemen in South Texas will take advantage of these facilities.

* * *

CITY OF LIGHT -- Government structures in Washington are now being floodlighted at night under a new program designed to brighten the shady buildings and dark streets in the Nation's Capital. This is a cheering development. As I have said before, our Capital City above all cities belongs to the people and they should be encouraged to make use of it. If the people pour out into the streets at night, no longer fearful of threats that might lurk in the darkness, the city will be revitalized and become a happier place for all the citizens. I hope the example being set in Washington will be followed by other cities everywhere. We can and should become a nation of light.

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KIKA'S SAYINGS -- Be cordial. Speak and act as if everything you do for others is a genuine pleasure. It should be

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VISITORS -- Visitors to my office this week were Mr. Joe M. Briones of Juneau, Alaska, formerly of Mission and Mr. Robert Barnes of McAllen.

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